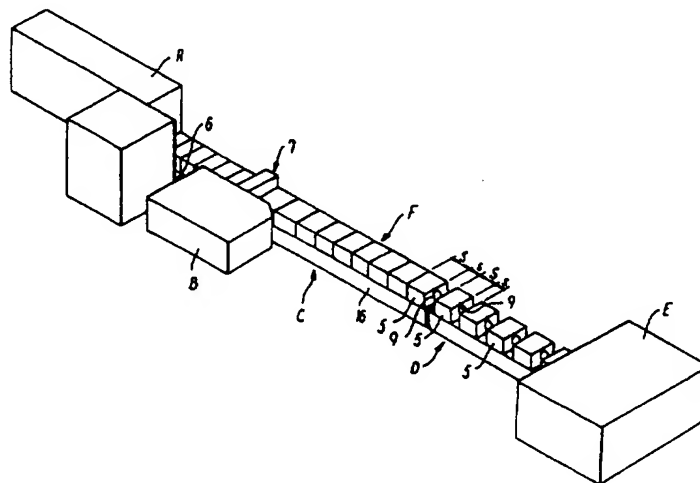




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : B22C 11/10, B22D 33/00, B65G 47/30	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/30140 (43) International Publication Date: 3 October 1996 (03.10.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK96/00128 (22) International Filing Date: 28 March 1996 (28.03.96) (30) Priority Data: 0345/95 30 March 1995 (30.03.95) DK (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GEORG FISCHER DISA A/S [DK/DK]; Herlev Hovedgade 17, DK-2730 Herlev (DK). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LARSEN, Jens, Peter [DK/DK]; Dalvangsvej 51.II.th., DK-2600 Glostrup (DK). JESPERSEN, Emil [DK/DK]; Rypevænget 2, DK-2600 Glostrup (DK). (74) Agent: BUDDE, SCHOU & CO. A/S; Vestergade 31, DK-1456 København K (DK).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVEYING MOULDS WITH CASTINGS THEREIN

**(57) Abstract**

In a method of advancing moulds (5), after pouring to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8), leaving a foundry plant comprising a mould-making station (A, 1-4) and a pouring station (B, 7), said moulds (5) leaving said stations in the form of closely juxtaposed mould parts (5) with the castings (9) in casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5), the latter constituting a mould string (F), in which each mould (5) occupies a given length (S) in the longitudinal direction of the mould string (F), the latter after having passed a precision conveyor (6, 16) being transferred to a second conveyor (10, 16, D), the main novel feature is that each time said second conveyor (10) receives a mould (5) from the mould string (F), the second conveyor (10) is advanced in a controlled manner through a greater distance (S+s) than the length (S) of said individual mould (5) in the mould string (F), so as to produce an interspace (s) on the second conveyor (10) between consecutive moulds (5) along the mainly vertical parting surfaces.

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METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR CONVEYING MOULDS WITH CASTINGS
THEREIN

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a method for conveying
moulds with castings therein, said method being of the
kind set forth in the preamble of claim 1. The second
10 conveyor referred to is normally of a relatively light
construction.

BACKGROUND ART

15 When making castings by pouring moulds with vertical
parting surfaces, the moulds will normally be advanced
along the pouring track on a precision conveyor, e.g. of
the kind described in the DK patent publications Nos.
20 119,373 and 127,494; in this manner, the moulds or mould
parts are placed in mutual abutment in a highly accurate
manner, and this accuracy is maintained during the steps
of pouring and solidification. After the pouring step,
the moulds may be transferred to a conveyor of the kind
25 described in DK-patent publication No. 138,840, making
it possible to reduce the total frictional resistance
against the movement of the moulds.

30 For the reasons referred to above, the moulds are fre-
quently transferred at a relatively early stage in the
process from the precision conveyor to a second conveyor
producing less frictional resistance than the precision
conveyor. This second conveyor may possibly be constituted
by an endless belt. During the transfer to the second

conveyor it must be ensured, either that the casting is sufficiently cooled to avoid the occurrence of cooling defects or deformations, or that the individual moulds are transferred in a manner preventing mutual displacements of the mould parts, possibly being the cause of deformations or cooling defects, respectively. Because of these relationships, the string of moulds will normally be transferred as a solid body through the second conveyor and advanced - still undivided - on the latter, until the castings have been cooled sufficiently, eventually to reach an extraction station.

An alternative to conveying the string of moulds as a continuous string to the extraction station is based on the use of devices to divide or break open the moulds in the mould string, e.g. of the kind shown in DK-B-129,397, in which such a device removes the central part of the moulds together with the castings. This alternative will, however, require the use of complicated equipment, the latter frequently having to be adapted to the particular castings being made and the particular moulds being used at any moment, especially when there is a change in the dimensions. Further, such an intermediate station will produce dust and fragments to be accounted for, as they can constitute a health risk and contribute to increased wear on moving parts.

Normally, however, the string of moulds will be advanced in the form of a continuous string on the second conveyor until the castings are cooled sufficiently for the extraction step. Further, if the second conveyor consists of flexible material incapable of withstanding high temperatures, such as e.g. is the case with endless belts of rubber or plastic material, it must be ensured, either

that the castings do not come into contact with the conveyor belt during the extraction, or that the castings are cooled to a temperature not causing damage to the conveyor belt, the latter temperature frequently lying
5 far below the temperature of solidification of the castings, thus requiring a disproportionately long cooling time on the conveyor belt.

A previously known automatic casting machine of the kind
10 referred to above operates in the following manner. The moulds or mould parts are produced in a mould-making station, from which they are conveyed in the form of a closely packed string of moulds by a precision conveyor along a track to a pouring station, in which liquid casting material is poured into the casting cavities formed
15 between the closely juxtaposed moulds or mould parts. After the pouring, the moulds or mould parts, now containing the casting material having been poured into them, are advanced, still in the form of a continuous string, along the casting track, during which the cooling is initiated in a cooling section. During this cooling it is important to prevent the moulds in the string of moulds from being displaced relative to each other, as this could otherwise result in deformations or cooling
20 defects in the castings before the latter have been cooled to a shape-retaining temperature. For this reason, the length of the cooling section of the precision conveyor is often made sufficient to ensure that the castings are sufficiently cooled to be separated from the moulds in an extraction station. Especially when producing large castings, it becomes difficult to use long precision conveyors, because increased sand adhesion, produced by condensed moisture from the moulds, make the latter
25 "stick" to the conveyor. In order to eliminate the effect

30

of the sand adhesion, some plants are provided with a divided cooling section, in which the string of moulds is transferred to a driven conventional conveyor being synchronized with the precision conveying of the string of moulds, so that the latter is advanced without substantial displacement between the moulds occurring. When the cooling takes place in a continuous string of moulds, the cooling section may, however, become very long, especially when producing large castings, because the moulds act as heat insulation. For this reason, the prior art has comprised attempts to shorten the cooling time by during the cooling step removing parts of the moulds or extracting the castings with a surrounding part of the moulds. This will, however, frequently require specially constructed apparatus adapted to the particular castings being made, and is also likely to produce large quantities of dust.

Thus, the purpose of the previously known second conveyor placed in extension of a precision conveyor has predominantly been to reduce the sand adhesion on the precision conveyor, and this has - to the extent that cooling is also provided during the movement on a conventional conveyor - resulted in relatively long conveying distances and cooling times, possibly also a relatively large quantity of "burnt-out" binder in the mould material. Further, it has been necessary to use relatively complicated extraction stations, especially when it is necessary to prevent the castings from coming into contact with a flexible conveyor belt. These extraction stations normally produce a considerable amount of powder and dust from crushed mould parts, that should be avoided.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is the object of the present invention to provide a method of the kind referred to initially, with which the disadvantages referred to above can be avoided or considerably reduced, and according to the invention, this object is achieved by proceeding in the manner set forth in the characterizing clause of claim 1. By proceeding in this manner, it is possible by using simple means to shorten the cooling time and/or extract the castings, while simultaneously avoiding the disadvantages referred to.

The present invention also relates to an arrangement for carrying out the method of the invention. This arrangement is of the kind set forth in the preamble of claim 7, and, according to the present invention, it also exhibits the features set forth in the characterizing clause of this claim 7.

Thus, the present invention provides a number of advantages based upon the use of simple means. The cooling is intensified, and it may be controlled by increasing the surface of the individual moulds and allowing air to come into contact with the castings, made possible by the mutual separation of the moulds in the string of moulds. This also makes it possible to reduce the quantity of "burnt-out" sand in the mould, as the cooling of the moulds themselves is also intensified. Since it is only the distance, through which the second conveyor moves for each transfer step or cycle, that will possibly be altered when changing the size of the mould or casting, an adaptation to different castings will also be very simple. The invention is especially suitable for use

when the temperature, to which the castings are to be cooled, depends on other parameters than the solidification temperature; this may be the case, when the castings at the solidification temperature still have a temperature capable of causing damage to other parts, such as a conveyor belt of a material not capable of withstanding high temperature, because the invention provides the possibility of opening the moulds and at the same time use them as heat insulation relative to the surrounding parts, such as the conveyor belt.

Further, the present invention provides the possibility of extracting the castings using simple means, since it is possible for a gripping device to engage the castings through the opening between the moulds without the necessity of breaking or destroying the latter. This makes it possible to simplify the construction of the extraction station and to reduce the production of dust. Alternatively, the invention makes it possible to use conveyors not specially constructed with a view to precision and temperature resistance, thus simplifying the construction.

By proceeding in the manner set forth in claim 2 it is possible to achieve a controlled cooling in a number of steps.

By proceeding in the manner set forth in claim 3, the mould having been overturned will protect the conveyor belt against unintentional heating. This is especially of advantage during the extraction step, such as set forth in claim 6.

The method of the invention may advantageously be carried

out with an arrangement of the kind set forth in claim 7, thus using one second conveyor.

5 As set forth in claim 8, the conveyor may advantageously be constituted by a conveyor belt.

10 When, further, this conveyor belt is provided with a sideboard or side rail, such as set forth in claim 9, the quantity of mould parts and other impurities escaping from the conveyor belt will be reduced.

15 If, further, the belt is provided with spaced abutments in the manner set forth in claim 10, one of the effects achieved is that the conveyor belt itself can synchronize its movement to that of the string of moulds.

With the arrangement set forth in claim 11, it is possible to extract the castings in a simple manner.

20

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 In the following detailed portion of the present description, the invention will be explained in more detail with reference to the exemplary embodiments shown in the drawing, in which

Figure 1 diagrammatically and in perspective shows a part of a foundry plant embodying the invention,
Figure 2 shows the operating principle for a previously known automatic mould-making machine,
30 Figure 3 shows how the string of moulds is separated into individual moulds with interspaces as provided by the present invention,
Figure 4 shows castings being extracted from the moulds

according to the invention, and
Figure 5 shows how the moulds are separated from the
string of moulds on a conveyor belt with spaced abutments
and sideboards or side rails, during which step the moulds
5 are overturned according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

10 Figure 1 shows an automatic foundry plant according to
the present invention. Before being poured, the moulds
are produced in a mould-making station A. The moulds 5
having been made are then transferred in the form of a
closely packed string of moulds F on a precision conveyor
15 6 to the pouring station B, 7, in which casting material
is poured into the casting cavities formed between the
closely packed moulds. After having been poured, the
moulds with the castings are conveyed further on the
precision conveyor 6, and during this part of the process,
20 the cooling is initiated in a first cooling section C.
During this cooling it is important that the moulds 5 in
the string of moulds F are not moved relative to each
other, as such movement may cause deformations or cooling
defects in the castings 9 before the latter have been
25 cooled to a temperature, at which they are stable with
regard to shape. For this reason, the first cooling sec-
tion C of the precision conveyor 6 is of a sufficient
length to ensure that the castings 9 are sufficiently
cooled to make them stable with regard to shape. Espec-
30 ially when producing large castings, the length of the
conveyor can, however, reach such a magnitude that water
evaporating in the moulds having been poured condenses
near the surface of the mould and causes adhesion of
sand, thus preventing precision conveying. To reduce the

influence of the sand adhesion occurring as a result of the condensation of water, the plant may be provided with a divided cooling run, in which the string of moulds F passes onto a conveyor that is synchronized with the precision advancement of the string of moulds, so that the latter is moved forward without substantial relative movement between the moulds 5 occurring.

This process will now be explained in more detail with reference to Figure 2. Casting-mould parts in the form of moulds 5 consisting of mould sand or the like may be produced in a manner known per se by, as shown in Figure 2a, introducing a suitable quantity of mould sand into the mould chamber 1 through a hopper 4, after which squeeze plates 2,3 are moved towards each other, causing the mould sand in the mould chamber 1 to be compacted so as to form the desired mould 5. The parts 1-4 are parts in the mould-making station A shown in Figure 1.

When, as shown in Figure 2, the mould 5 has been formed, the squeeze plate 3 is pivoted away from the mould chamber 1 and the latter's bottom 6 as shown in Figure 2c. After this, the squeeze plate 2 is advanced further with the mould 5 along the bottom 6, the latter continuing as the precision conveyor 6, so that the squeeze plate 2 moves the mould 5 forward into abutment with the previously formed mould 5 in the string of moulds 5 consisting of moulds 5 abutting against each other and now also comprising the most recently formed mould 5. After this, the squeeze plate 2 and the precision conveyor 6 move the string of moulds F one step further forward. Then, the squeeze plate 2 is withdrawn to its initial position, and the squeeze plate 3 is pivoted downwardly to its initial position, after which the process can be repeated.

Thus, the string of moulds F will be pushed forward step by step to the pouring region 7 (at the pouring station B in Figure 1), in which casting material is poured into the casting cavities 8 formed between the moulds 5 so as to produce the desired castings 9. After the pouring, the precision conveyor 6 advances the moulds 5 with the castings 9 step by step in the form of an undivided string of moulds F, and during this movement, the cooling of the castings 9 is initiated in the first cooling section C shown in Figure 1. Firstly, this cooling occurs by heat energy being transferred to the material in the moulds 5, after which the heat is conducted through this material and dissipated from its surfaces. During this conduction of heat after the immediate heating, the mould sand acts as heat insulation relative to the castings 9.

The string of moulds F continues on the precision conveyor 6 until it is transferred to the next conveying run. The succeeding conveying run may constitute an extension of the precision conveyor 6 and may be constructed and driven in such a manner that the moulds 5 will not be displaced relative to the string of moulds F, e.g. in the manner disclosed in DK-B-138,840, disclosing a conveyor belt being stabilized by rod-shaped means in engagement about the edges of the conveyor belt and accompanying the latter on a part of the conveying distance, thus preventing the moulds being opened by displacements relative to or in the belt.

After having passed along the precision conveyor 6, 16 and its extension 16, if present, the unbroken string of moulds F will arrive at an end region of the precision conveyor 6, 16 or the latter's extension 16 as shown in

Figure 3 constituting the terminal part of the first cooling section C as shown in Figure 1.

5 According to the present invention, the moulds 5 with the castings 9 are transferred from the first cooling section C to the second cooling section D, the latter being a conveyor, shown in Figure 3 in the form of a conveyor belt 10, that for each mould 5 being transferred is advanced through a greater distance $S+s$ than the length
10 S of the mould 5 previously having been transferred and entered into the string of moulds F, so that the latter is divided up with interspaces s between the moulds 5 along the latters' parting surfaces in the manner shown in Figures 1 and 3.

15 This means that the speed of the conveyor belt 10 as differentiated through a complete cycle of duration T is greater than the speed of the string of moulds F: $(S+s)/T > S/T$, because $s > 0$.

20 The transfer as such may take place with uniform synchronized speed as between the string of moulds F and the conveyor belt 10, after which the string of moulds F stops while the conveyor belt 10 continues to advance
25 e.g. 5-25 mm and then stops. With this cause of events, the continuous string of moulds F will be separated into individual moulds 5 with interspaces s adjusted to a desired magnitude, e.g. an interspace s of 5-25 mm.

30 This interspace s can contribute to augmenting the cooling effect by increasing the surface area of the moulds 5 and by creating direct access to the castings. The cooling effect may be adjusted by varying the size of the interspace s , and it may possibly be adjusted a number of

times with transfer to a new conveyor, during which the distance s is further increased by an increment s_x to a greater distance $s+s_x$.

5 Further, Figure 4 shows the extraction of the castings 9, these being extracted mechanically at an extraction station 11 (in Figure 1 being designated E), in which a gripping device engages the castings 9 through the inter-spaces s, s_x between the moulds 5. This is a relatively
10 simple operation, as it is not necessary for the gripping devices 12 to break open the moulds 5 in order to be able to engage the castings 9.

The extraction station 11 may comprise a machine or a
15 robot situated in a suitable extraction location. The extraction station may comprise detectors for detecting the openings s, s_x between the moulds 5 and/or the castings 9 by mechanical sensing, photocells, ultrasound, inductive sensors or the like. The extraction of the castings 9
20 from the moulds 5 may be carried out by the mould 5 embracing the casting 9 and being forwardmost in the direction of movement of the moulds being overturned in the forward direction by advancing the gripping device 12 in the extraction station 11 after having gripped the casting,
25 after which the latter is moved away from the conveyor belt 10. It is also possible to carry out the extraction by lifting the castings 9 up through the moulds 5, thus breaking open the upper part of the moulds 5. What these methods of extraction have in common is that
30 they are simple to carry out and produce a small quantity of dust, because the moulds 5 are not subjected to a crushing operation during the introduction of gripping devices in the mould itself, such as is otherwise normal in extraction stations.

An especially advantageous extraction is achieved by letting the gripping device 12 engage the castings 9 upstream of the end of the top run of the conveyor belt 10 and follow the latter's movement, the forwardmost mould 5 falling off the conveyor belt 10 at the end of the top run, after which the casting 9 is removed from the succeeding mould 5.

10 This type of extraction makes it possible to transfer the mould 5 being overturned from the conveyor belt directly to a collecting space without any previous crushing or breaking up taking place, thus avoiding the creation of dust.

15

If the moulds 5 have such a shape that the castings 5 may be supported by one of them, the moulds can be moved with a relatively large mutual distance, thus improving the cooling and making it possible, if desired, to overturn the mould as shown in Figure 5. When the mould 5 has been overturned, the conveyor belt 10 is protected against the influence of heat from the casting 9, because the mould 5 acts as heat insulation. Further, the mould 5 protects the conveyor belt 10 against hot falling parts from the castings 9 and hot particles coming loose in the region of the casting cavity in the mould 5, such as otherwise could especially constitute a problem during the extraction at the extraction station 11.

30 As shown and described, the conveyor 10 may be constituted by a conveyor belt, but it may also be constructed differently, e.g. in the form of a "travelling grate".

In the embodiment shown it is advantageous if the conveyor

belt 10 is provided with sideboards or side rails, preferably having corrugations, causing mould parts or pieces from the moulds 5 to remain on the conveyor belt 10 to be collected at the downstream end.

5 The conveyor belt 10 may also be provided with spaced abutments 13 as indicated in Figure 5, so that the string of moulds F will push the conveyor belt forward through a given distance when a mould 5 is being pushed onto the
10 conveyor belt 10, as the forwardmost mould 5 in the string F will be advanced together with the latter until it engages an abutment 13, after which the conveyor belt 10 will be moved forward by the string F, and then, when the latter stops, the conveyor belt 10 continues to ad-
15 vance until a new abutment 13 is brought into position in front of the string of moulds F. E.g. in the beginning of the cycle time T, the speed of the string F may be greater than the speed of the conveyor belt 10, but differentiated over the complete cycle time T, the speed is
20 greatest for the conveyor belt. These spaced abutments 13 may possibly be constructed and arranged in such a manner that their position may be altered according to the desired interspace between the moulds 5 and the size of the latter. The conveyor belt 10 itself may be arranged
25 to be run freely or to be driven, the latter alternative comprising a partial drive for overcoming part of the frictional resistance, e.g. with a constantly acting advancing force corresponding to 90% of what is needed to advance the conveyor belt 10, thus relieving the string
30 of moulds F, as during this part of the movement it is not subjected to the friction of the precision conveyor 6 and is only required to provide 10% of the requisite force for advancing the conveyor belt 10.

LIST OF PARTS

	A	mould-making station
	B	pouring station
5	C	first cooling section
	D	second cooling section
	E	extraction station
	F	string of moulds
	S	length
10	S+s	distance
	s	interspace
	1	mould chamber
	2	squeeze plate
	3	squeeze plate
15	4	hopper
	5	mould
	6(,16)	precision conveyor/bottom
	7	pouring region
	8	casting cavity
20	9	casting(s)
	10	conveyor belt
	11	extraction station
	12	gripping device
	13	spaced abutments
25	14	sideboard
	16	extension

C L A I M S :

1. A method of advancing moulds (5), after pouring to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8) leaving a foundry plant comprising a mould-making station (A,1-4) and a pouring station (B,7), said moulds (5) leaving said stations in the form of closely juxtaposed mould parts (5) with the castings (9) in casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5), the latter constituting a mould string (F), in which each mould (5) occupies a given length (S) in the longitudinal direction of the mould string (F), the latter after having passed a precision conveyor (6,16) being transferred to a second conveyor (10,16,D),
- 15 c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that each time said second conveyor (10) receives a mould (5) from the mould string (F), the second conveyor (10) is advanced in a controlled manner through a greater distance (S+s) than the length (S) of said individual mould (5) in the mould string (F), so as to produce an interspace (s) on the second
- 20 conveyor (10) between consecutive moulds (5) along the mainly vertical parting surfaces.
2. Method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d by the use of at least one further conveyor (10) downstream of said second conveyor (10), said further conveyor (10) during the transfer of a mould (5) from the preceeding conveyor (10) being advanced through a greater distance (S+s+sx) than the preceeding conveyor,
- 25 30 so that the interspace (s+sx) between the successive moulds (5) is increased relative to the interspace (s) between the successive moulds on the preceding conveyor.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c -

t e r i z e d in that the moulds (5) with the castings (9) are overturned at a moment in time later than the moment in time, in which an interspace (s,sx) has been created between the moulds (5).

5

4. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by the use of a second conveyor (10) in the form of a freely running conveyor, so that the force for advancing the conveyor is at least
10 in part supplied by the mould string (F) during the forward movement of the latter.

5. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-4, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the second conveyor (10) is driven by means of an applied force, at
15 least partially constituting the requisite advancing force.

6. Method according to any one or any of the claims 1-5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the castings (9) are gripped at surfaces having been laid bare and not being embraced by the mould (5), and then removed from the second conveyor (10).

7. Arrangement for carrying out the method according to claims 1-6 and of the kind comprising a precision conveyor (6) for conveying mould parts (5), after having been poured to form castings (9) in the casting cavities (8) leaving a casting machine in the form of closely
25 juxtaposed mould parts in the form of moulds (5) having casting cavities (8) at the mainly vertical parting surfaces between successive moulds (5) constituting a mould string (F), said arrangement comprising a second conveyor
30 (10,16,D), to which the moulds (5) are transferred after

having been discharged from said precision conveyor (6) or the latter's extension (16), **c h a r a c t e r - i z e d** in that the second conveyor (10) receiving moulds (5) is adapted, controlled and/or driven in such a manner, 5 that each time it receives a mould (5) with a casting (9), it is advanced in a controlled manner through a distance ($S+s, S+s+sx$) greater than the longitudinal space ($S, S+s$) previously occupied by the mould (5) relative to a succeeding mould part (5), so that on the second conveyor (10), a relative displacement ($s, s+sx$) between the 10 individual moulds (5) in a direction away from each other takes place, said displacement mainly being produced at the mainly vertical parting surfaces.

15 8. Arrangement according to claim 7, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said second conveyor (10) is constituted by a conveyor belt (10), especially an endless, flexible conveyor belt (10).

20 9. Arrangement according to claim 8, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said second conveyor (10) is provided with at least one sideboard or side rail (14), especially in the form of a corrugated sideboard or side rail.

25 10. Arrangement according to any one or any of the claims 7-9, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said second conveyor (10) is provided with spaced abutments (13), preferably being adjustable in position.

30 11. Arrangement according to any one or any of the claims 7-10, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** by an extraction station (11) having a gripping device (12) adapted to engage the castings (9) at the surfaces of the latter

having been laid bare.

1/4

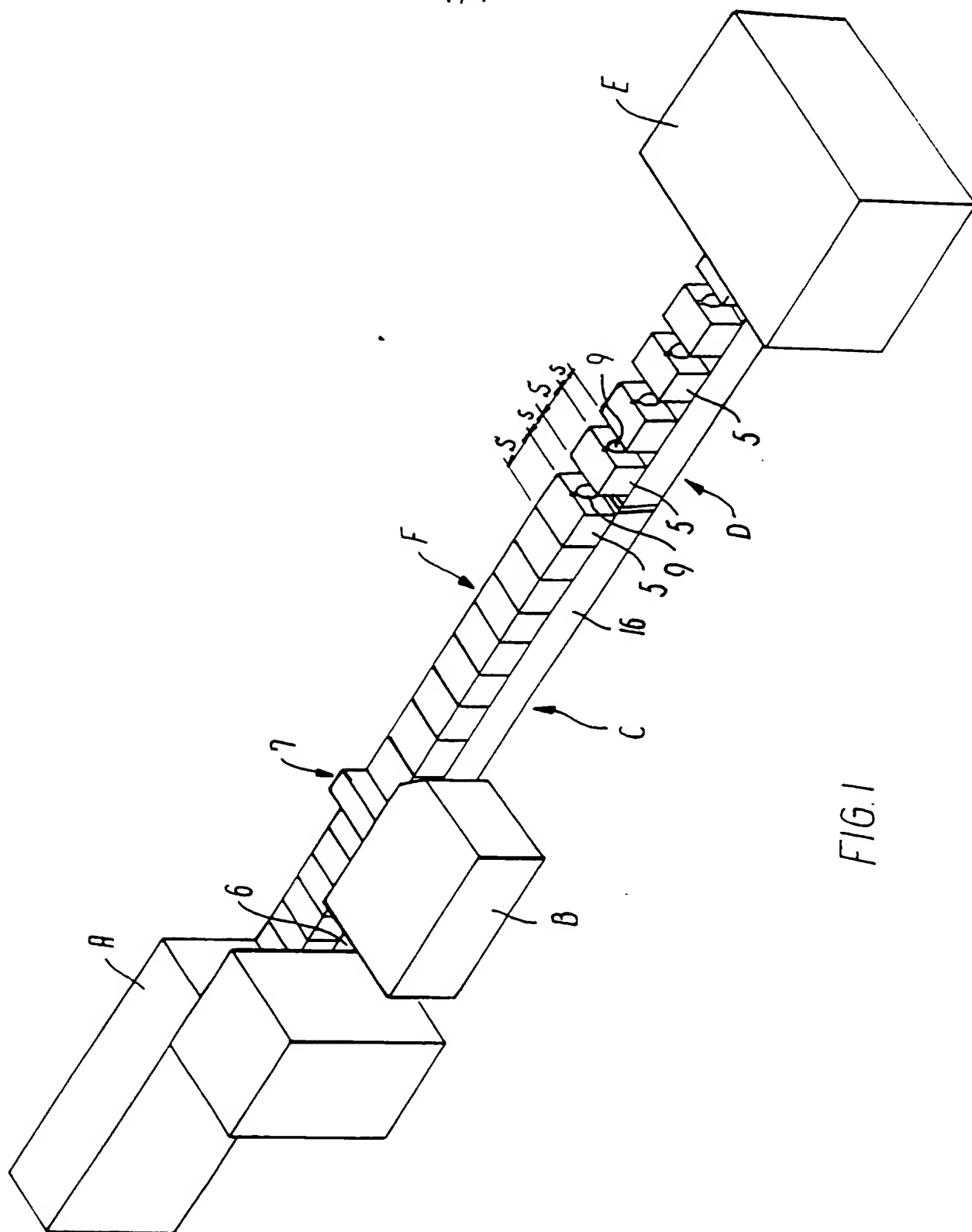


FIG. 1

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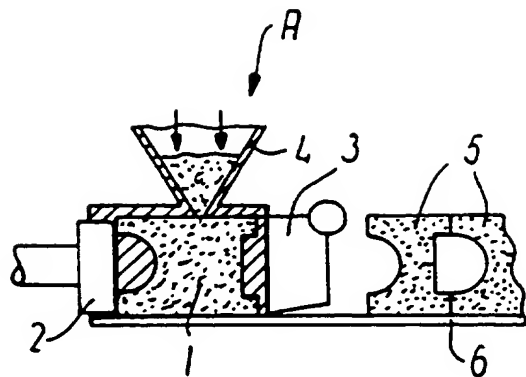


FIG. 2a

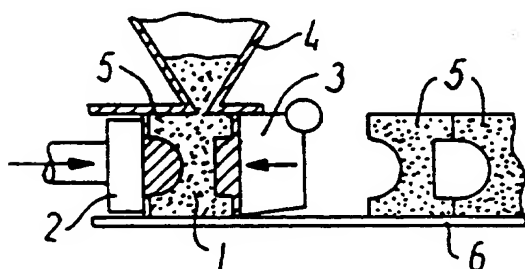


FIG. 2b

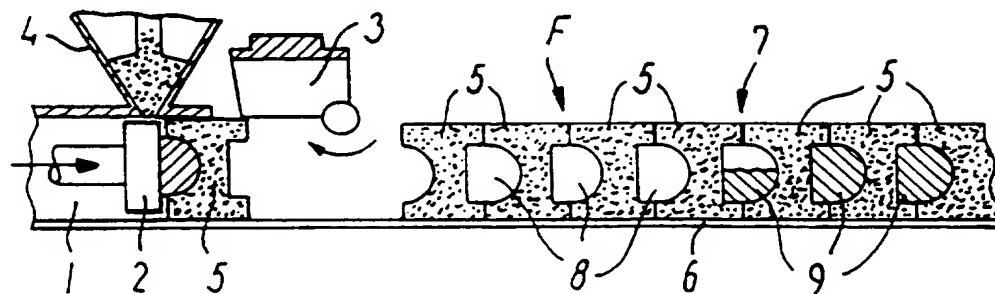


FIG. 2c

3/4

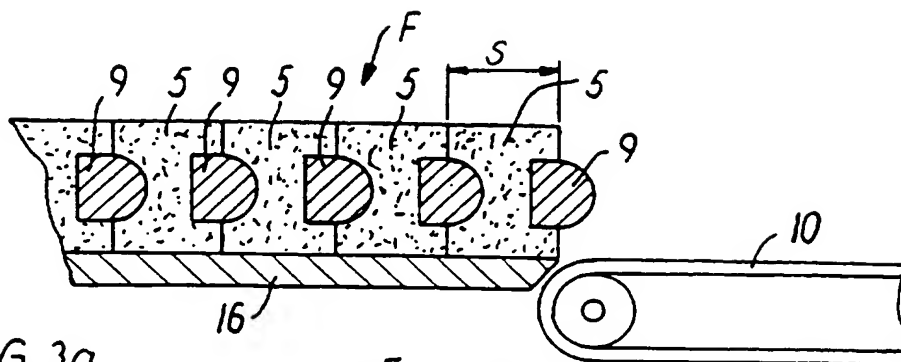


FIG. 3a

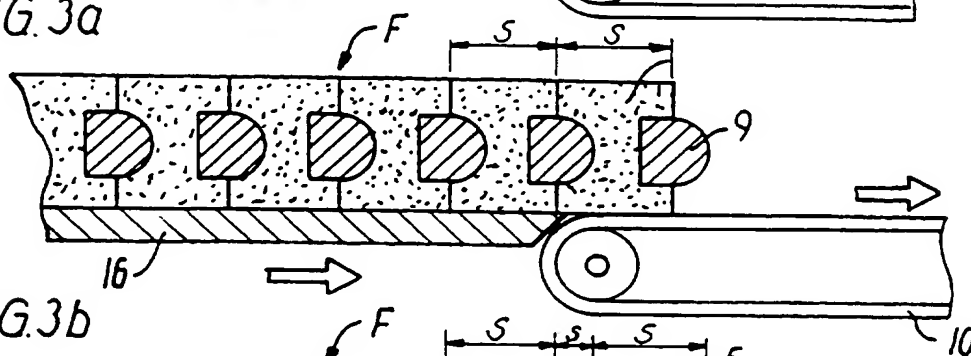


FIG. 3b

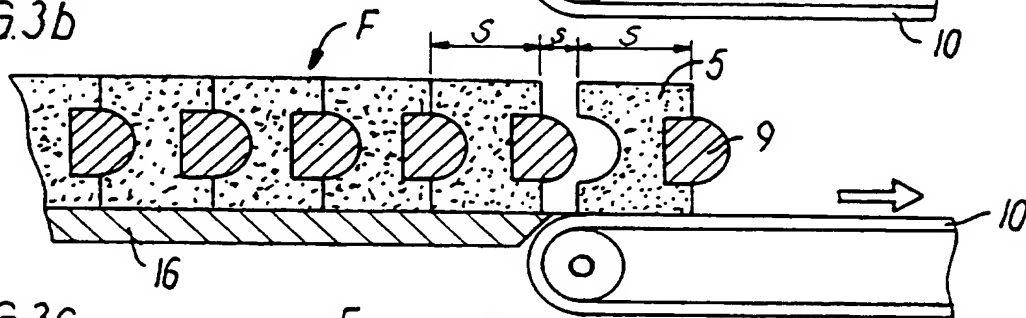


FIG. 3c

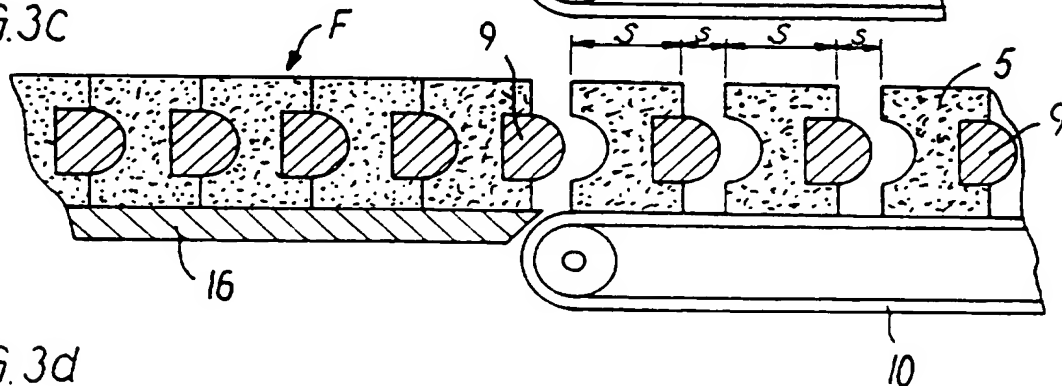
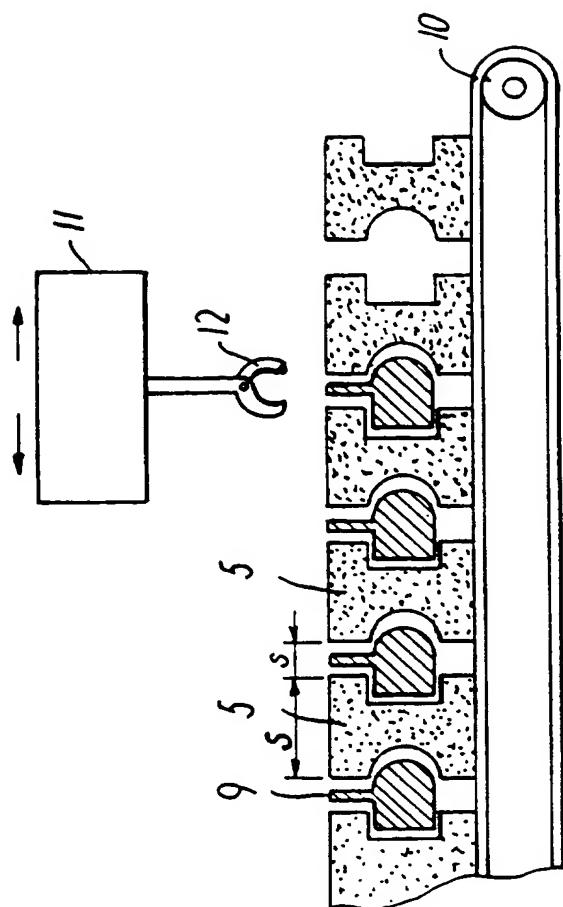
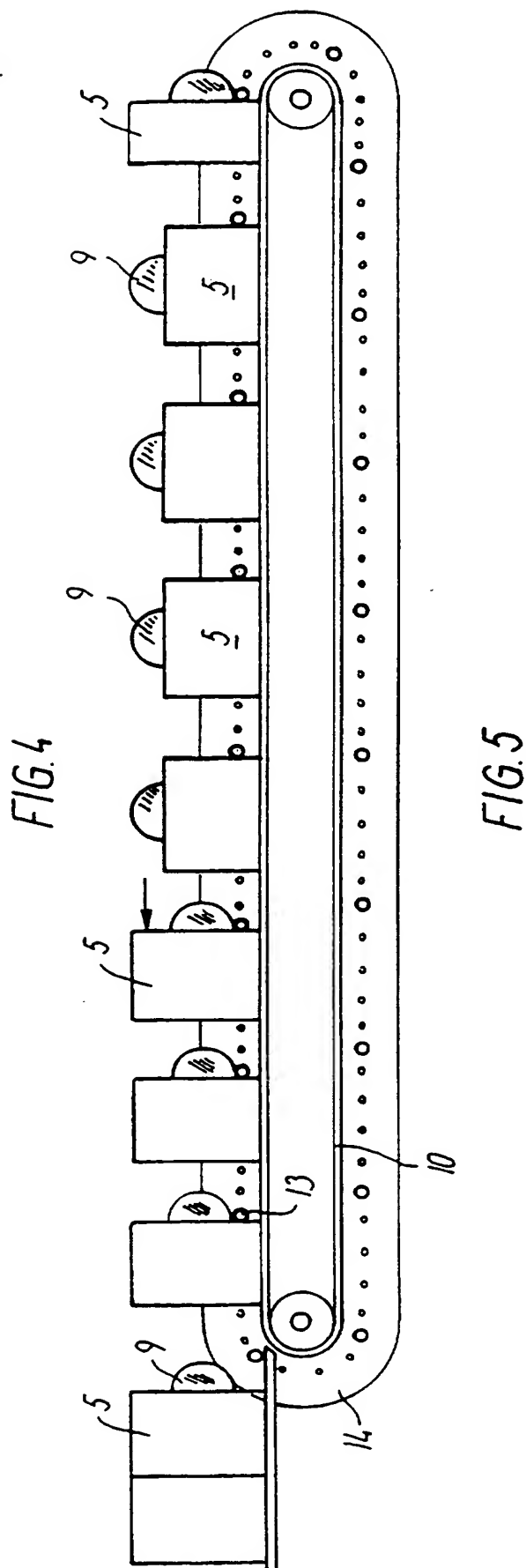


FIG. 3d



4/4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00128

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: B22C 11/10, B22D 33/00, B65G 47/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: B22C, B22D, F27B, F27D, B65G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI, CLAIMS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DE 2404907 B2 (DANSK INDUSTRI SYNDIKAT A/S), 26 February 1976 (26.02.76), figures 1,4 --	1,4-9,11
Y	EP 0385245 A2 (HITECH SYSTEMS S.R.L.), 5 Sept 1990 (05.09.90), figure 3, abstract --	1,4-9,11
A	JP 62171816 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 28 July 1987 (28.07.87), figures 1,3 --	1-11
A	EP 0013062 A1 (THE OSBORN MANUFACTURING CORPORATION), 9 July 1980 (09.07.80), figures 18, 19, claim 1 --	1-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 July 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 -07- 1996

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00128

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 4034405 A1 (DANSK INDUSTRI SYNDIKAT A/S), 2 May 1991 (02.05.91), column 4, line 31 - line 34, figures 1,3 --	1-11
A	US 4846251 A (MICHAEL ACHINGER), 11 July 1989 (11.07.89), figures 1,3 -- -----	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

01/04/96

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00128

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DE-A1- 4034405	02/05/91	JP-A- 3177218	01/08/91
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